

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4763

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, SHUM

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH

REF STATE 98034,

1. AMB PRESENTED COPY OF SECY'S HUMAN RIGHTS SPEECH TO FONMIN FAHMY ON MAY 5, FIRST MEETING SINCE HIS RETURN FROM ALEX-ANDRIA. AMB MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL STRESSING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO ENTER INTO OUR OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY, BUT IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE FLEXIBLE. FAHMY SAID HE WOULD READ IT CAREFULLY SINCE HE RECOGNIZES USG SERIOUSNESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AMB URGED THAT HE ALSO GIVE PRES SADAT A COPY AND BRIEF HIM ON IT. FAHMY SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

2. COPIES OF SPEECH ALSO GIVEN PERSONNALLY BY EMBOFFS TO MEMBERS OF FAHMY'S IMMEDIATE STAFF AND TO KEY MFA DEPT DIRS. USIS DISTRIBUTED 240 COPIES TO KEY CONTACT LIST OF GOVT OFFICIALS AND MEDIA.

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3. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE SPEECH. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN LIGHT. TWO PAGE ARTICLE ON US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN LEFTIST ROSE AL-YUSUF PRIOR TO SPEECH WRITTEN BY EDITOR PHILIP GALLAB ALLEGED THAT STATE DEPT HAD ISSUED REPORTS ON 82 COUNTRIES ONLY "RELUCTANTLY". ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT ZIONISM BENEFITS FROM THIS CAMPAIGN BY PROMOTING JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM USSR TO ISRAEL. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED

THAT PRES CARTER WAS SHOCKED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AMESTY
REPORT THAT "MILLIONS OF AMERICAN BLACKS AND THOUSANDS OF
RED INDIANS DO NOT ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS IN THE US."

4. COMMENT: WHILE MOST OF OUR EGYPTIAN CONTACTS HAVE COMMENTED
FAVORABLY UPON OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY THEY TEND TO VIEW IT
PRIMARILY IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONTEXT. THEY MAINTAIN THAT SOONER
OR LATER US WILL HAVE TO TAKE STAND ON WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS
VIOLATION OF PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS AS RESULT CREATION OF
ISRAEL AND WHICH CONTINUING AS RESULT ISRAELI POLICY IN
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THOSE GOE OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED
WITH ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT ALSO OBJECT TO TENET OF OUR HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY THAT CALLS FOR FREE EMIGRATION, SINCE THEY VIEW
THIS AS SUPPORT FOR EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL.

5. AS WE PRESUME IN THE CASE IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES, EGYPTIANS
VIEW OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS THROUGH THEIR OWN PRIVATE
PRISM. THEY APPLAUD WHAT SUITS THEIR INTERESTS AND OBJECT
TO THOSE ASPECTS WHICH CONFLICT WITH THOSE INTERESTS.
EILTS

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